



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### State Launches New Labor Market Information Web Site

INDIANAPOLIS (May 16, 2006) -- A new labor market information web site operated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is now available for use by the general public. The site can be accessed at [www.hoosierdata.in.gov](http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov).

The new site contains labor market data, statistics and trends compiled by the department and the United States Department of Labor in a vastly improved format.

The new web site is part of a major upgrade of the content and usability of the labor market information data the department regularly compiles on Indiana's workforce. It offers improved functionality over the previous web site in that users can more easily sort and rank data, can "grab" data in spreadsheet or text formats, and more easily make geographic comparisons. The data on the web site is used by economic development officials, researchers, policy-makers and other officials in a wide variety of economic development initiatives and community investment decisions.

"Good information and intelligence drives good decision-making," said Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. "We met with our customers across the state, gathered their insights and are now delivering on their needs in a meaningful fashion. This will be an invaluable tool for economic and workforce development leaders throughout the state."

The project is part of the state of Indiana's state data initiative, *Information for Indiana*, and is in response to a report issued last year that found major shortcomings in the state's compilation of data, its usefulness and usability, and its relationship to effective policy-making.

"The broader scope of data and simpler formatting should prove to be a big help for policy-makers, researchers, members of the news media and others," said Neil Pickett, senior advisor for policy and projects to Governor Mitch Daniels, and director of *Information for Indiana*, which seeks to improve the state's collection, analysis and dissemination of data for policy decision making.

Last year the department contracted with the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment and the Indiana Business and Research Center to assess the needs and preferences of regular users of the state's labor market information. A series of focus groups and online survey resulted in several recommendations, including:

- A need to provide wage, occupational and skills data via trend and time series.
- An ability to customize data by regions, and to access data at county, township and establishment levels.
- A call for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping of labor market information.
- An overhaul of the Department's labor information website, INEWS, with emphasis on making it more user-friendly.
- Development of career guides for community colleges and schools.
- More timely job vacancy survey data.
- More focus on small business development.
- Training on how to access and utilize data and reports.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the statewide job placement service. For more information on DWD and its programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).